AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Original claims 1-18 and amended claims 1-18: (Cancelled)

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): A spinning toy comprising a pair of spaced disc bodies connected by a transverse shaft forming a gap therebetween, a string attached to a spindle wherein the spindle is coupled to the shaft in the gap ~~whereby the toy can be spun on~~ such that the disc bodies can be spun relative to the string, and a release mechanism for ~~releasing~~ uncoupling the spindle from~~the attachment of the string on~~ the shaft while the toy is spinning thereby separating the string and spindle from the disc bodies.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The spinning toy claimed in claim 19, wherein the release mechanism protrudes radially from the circumference of one of the disc bodies and is activated to release the string from the shaft in response to a force on the release mechanism.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): The spinning toy claimed in claim 19, wherein the string is affixed to ~~a~~the spindle ~~that mounts on the shaft and spins thereon~~through an aperture in the spindle.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): The spinning toy claimed in claim 20, wherein the string is affixed to ~~a~~the spindle ~~that mounts on the shaft and spins thereon~~through an aperture in the spindle.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): The spinning toy claimed in claim ~~21~~19, wherein the release mechanism urges the shaft to move axially to release the spindle from the shaft and thereby allow the string to detach from the shaft.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The spinning toy claimed in claim 23, wherein one end of the shaft is spring mounted inside one of the disc bodies.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The spinning toy claimed in claim 23,

wherein the spindle is captured between the disc bodies and held therebetween on the shaft, and whereby an axial movement of the shaft widens the gap between the disc bodies, hence releasing the spindle.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The spinning toy claimed in claim 25, wherein catches in the gap assist in holding the spindle on the shaft.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The spinning toy claimed in claim 23, wherein the shaft is provided with two different sized diameters, wherein the spindle is attached to the shaft at the larger diameter and axial movement of the shaft exposes the smaller diameter thereby allowing the spindle to detach from the shaft.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): The spinning toy claimed in claim 19, wherein the release mechanism includes a trigger protruding from the circumference of one of the disc bodies and a biased tab moveable in response to movement of the trigger, whereby movement of the tab releases the shaft to axial movement.

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): The spinning toy claimed in claim 28, wherein the tab has an elongate or large round opening through which the biased shaft extends and is held therein~~, whereby movement of the tab releases the shaft to axial movement~~.

Claim 30 (Currently Amended): The spinning toy claimed in claim 28, wherein the trigger is a lever pivoted to the ~~same~~ disc body containing the release mechanism.

Claim 31 (Currently Amended): The spinning toy claimed in claim 29, wherein the trigger is a lever pivoted to the ~~same~~ disc body containing the release mechanism.

Claim 32 (Currently Amended): The spinning toy claimed in claim 19, further including a clutch engageable with the shaft that prevents axial movement of the shaft, and that disengages from the shaft~~under~~, when the spinning toy achieves a predetermined centrifugal forces.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): The spinning toy claimed in claim 32, wherein the clutch is weighted and spring mounted to an interior circumference of a disc body.

Claim 34 (Currently Amended): The spinning toy claimed in claim 33, wherein the clutch is an elongate arm that is spring mounted to the ~~housing~~ interior circumference of the disc body at an approximate center of the arm and has a lug at an approximate center that engages with a complementary slot in the shaft such that the clutch releases the shaft when centrifugal forces cause the clutch to move toward the interior circumference.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): The spinning toy claimed in claim 30, wherein the trigger pivots approximately 90° in either direction from an extended position to a down position.

Claim 36 (Previously Presented): The spinning toy claimed in claim 25, wherein the spindle is a part circular shape that encircles the shaft by approximately 180°.

Claim 37 (Previously Presented): The spinning toy claimed in claim 27, wherein the spindle is a part circular shape that encircles the larger diameter of the shaft by more than 180° but less than 360°.

Claim 38 (Currently Amended): A method of using a spinning toy having a pair of spaced disc bodies connected by a transverse shaft forming a gap therebetween, and a string attached to a spindle wherein the spindle is coupled to the shaft in the gap, the method including:

spinning the connected disc bodies relative to the string by unwinding the disc bodies from the string;

lowering the spinning disc bodies towards a surface to activate a release mechanism that releases the string from the shaft thereby separating the string and spindle from the disc bodies; and

retaining hold of the string ~~and~~ while allowing the disc bodies to freely roll along ~~the~~a surface.